

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 06254 180119Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM USMISSION USUN NEWYORK
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INFO USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 6254

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, IZ
SUBJ: IRAQ UN MISSION ACQUISITION OF FIREARMS

REF: BAGHDAD 1855; USUN 6155

1. AMB AL-SHAIKHLI TELEPHONED CUSTOMS AGENT JOSEPH KING AT NOON, DECEMBER 17, 1976, TO SAY THAT HE HAD CHECKED WITH AL-TAYYAR AND FOUND THAT THERE IS NO PURCHASE ORDER, THAT THE AGREEMENT WAS A VERBAL ONE FOR 250 MAC-10 GUNS. AL-SHAIKHLI SAID THE ORDER DID NOT INCLUDE ANY OTHER TYPE GUNS NOR ANY ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT OR ATTACHEMENTS FOR THE GUNS ORDERED.

2. ACCORDNG TO KING, AL-SHAIKHLI OFFERED THE INFORMATION THAT ALL THE GUNS WERE RETURNED LAST SATURDAY (DECEMBER 11) AND HE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT AN ADDITIONAL 30 GUNS. KING TOLD AL-SHAIKHLI HE HAD THE SERIAL NUMBERS OF THE MISSING 30 GUNS. AL-SHAIKHLI STUCK TO HIS STORY THAT HE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT THEM. HE ALSO TOLD KING THAT NO ATTENTION SHOULD BE PAID TO THE MARKINGS ON THE BOXES, I.E., 1/4, 2/4, 3/4. AL-SHAIKHLI SAID THE GUNS HAD BEEN REPACKED AND PUT INTO BOXES OTHER THAN THE ORIGINAL ONES. (FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION, IN ADDITION
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TO THE SERIALIZATION OF THE BOXES, EACH IS STAMPED WITHE THE NAME "FARGO" WHICH IS THE FIRE ARMS DEALER IN KENSINGTON, MARYLAND, WHO HANDLED THE SHIPMENT.)

3. IN THE COURSE OF THE CONVERSATION, KING ASKED AL-SHAIKHLI IF HE COULD INTERVIEW AL-TAYYAR. AL-SHAIKHLI

SAID NO. AL-SHAIKHLIY ALSO SAID THAT HE COULD NOT IDENTIFY THE SIGNATURE OF THE PERSON FROM HIS MISSION WHO RECEIPTED FOR THE SHIPMENT ON NOVEMBER 12, 1976.

4. FOR DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION, A CALL TO THE IRAQ MISSION AT 4:15 PM, DECEMBER 17, ESTABLISHED THAT AL-TAYYAR IS STILL IN NEW YORK CITY.

5. COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION. IT HAS BEEN APPARENT FROM THE BEGINNING, BUT IT NOW SEEMS CLEAR BEYOND REASONABLE DOUBT THAT IRAQI MISSION IS DISSEMBLING WITH US ON MATTER OF MAC-10 PURCHASE. THEY HAVE BEEN EVASIVE IN SUPPLYING INFORMATION AND HAVE FAILED TO ANSWER SOME OF THE QUESTIONS. IN FACT, WE ARE SATISFIED THEY ARE LYING THROUGH THEIR TEETH ON A NUMBER OF ASPECTS.

6. AL-SHAIKHLIY MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE BEGUN WITH US IN GOOD FAITH. IT IS PROBABLE THAT HE WAS NOT TOO WELL INFORMED ABOUT AL-TAYYAR'S ACTIVITIES. HOWEVER, HE PROBABLY KNOWS MORE ABOUT THE AFFAIR THAN HE IS WILLING TO ADMIT TO US.

7. EVEN IF WE GRANT IRAQI MISSION'S ASSERTION THAT AL-TAYYAR BECAME INVOLVED WITH ILLEGAL ALIEN POLYTARIDES THROUGH INNOCENCE, LACK OF EXPERIENCE OR WHATEVER, FACT REMAINS THAT IRAQI MISSION HAS SHIPPED OUT, PRESUMABLY THROUGH DIPLOMATOC POUCH, 30 MAC-10 WEAPONS, BAGHDAD TELEGRAM 1855 SEEMS TO ESTABLISH THAT, ALTHOUGH AL-SHAIKHLIY TODAY INSISTED THAT PURCHASE HAD INVOLVED ONLY MAC-10 GUNS AND NO OTHER ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT AND ATTACHMENTS, TREASURY (CUSTOMS) HAS, WE UNDERSTAND, CONFIDENTIAL

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INFORMATION TO THE CONTRARY.

8. EXPORT OF THESE WEAPONS AND IMPLICATION OF ATTEMPTED PURCHASE OF OTHER EQUIPMENT APPLICABLE TO TERRORIST PURPOSES, SEEMS TO US A MOST SERIOUS VIOLATION OF US LAWS. IT IS ALSO FLAGRANT VIOLATION IF IRAQI MISSION'S OBLIGATIONS AS DIPLOMATIC MISSION ACCREDITED TO THE UN. WE HAVE STRESSED THESE POINTS TO AL-SHAIKHLIY. NOW IT SEEMS TO US, IS THE TIME TO ACT.

9. WE RECOMMEND THAT USUN BE AUTHORIZED TO APPROACH UN SECRETARIAT AND AL-SHAIKHLIY ON DECEMBER 20 AND ASK FOR IMMEDIATE DEPARTURE FROM NEW YORK OF AL-TAYYAR. ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN ON GROUNDS OF VIOLATION OF US LAW AND LACK OF FULL COOPERATION ON PART OF IRAQI MISSION IN CLEARING UP MATTER. AL-SHAIKHLIY WOULD BE TOLD THAT AL-TAYYAR MUST LEAVE WITHOUT DELAY. (IT IS BETTER TO EXPEL HIM THAN LET HIM LEAVE ON HIS OWN OR IRAQI ACCORD, WHICH SEEMS LIKELY.)

10. WE WOULD STILL EXPECT 30 MAC-10 GUNS TO BE TURNED OVER TO USG AND FULL COOPERATION IN RESOLVING CASE. AL-SHAIKHLY WOULD BE TOLD THAT, FAILING THAT COOPERATION, AL-TAYYAR'S EXPULSION WOULD NOT BE THE ONLY ONE.

11. RECOMMEND AUTHORIZATION TO PROCEED AS OUTLINED ABOVE.
BENNETT

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